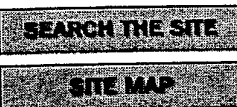
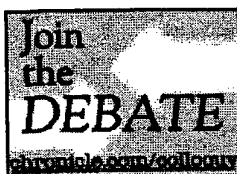


Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
October 15, 2001

News Article of Interest

The attached news article is related to equal education opportunity.

Staff preparation by Sherron Jackson



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THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Today's News

Friday, October 5, 2001

Report Finds the Majority of U.S. Students Not Prepared for College

By ALEX P. KELLOGG

High schools in the United States are not adequately preparing nearly enough American young people for college, the National Commission on the High-School Senior Year said in a report released Thursday.

The report, "Raising Our Sights: No High School Senior Left Behind," says that while 70 percent of today's high-school graduates go on to enroll in some form of postsecondary education, only half of those who enroll at four-year institutions leave with a degree. The main reason for this? They weren't prepared in high school for the rigors of college academics, the report concludes.

"Too many of our students are being left behind. Too many leave high school unprepared for further study or work," said Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky, chairman of the commission, which was formed last year by the U.S. Education Department, with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Although 90 percent of freshmen say they expect to complete college, the study's authors say that only 44 percent have taken a college-preparatory curriculum in high school that positions them successfully to do so. "The other 30 million are being prepared for a future that has already vanished, in courses of study that lack rigor or coherence," the report says.

Its recommendations echo those made in similar reports released this year on the need for secondary-school educational reform. They

Headlines

Report finds the majority of U.S. students not prepared for college

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include calls for the comprehensive restructuring of high-school curriculums to better prepare students for the rigors of college studies, and a closer alignment of high schools' curriculums and graduation requirements with colleges' own standards.

The best way to resolve this, according to Governor Patton and his colleagues, would be for all states to put oversight of all levels of education, from kindergarten through postsecondary education, in the hands of one governing body, to facilitate these kinds of changes.

The entire educational spectrum, said Mr. Patton, "must be a seamless, unified system stretching from preschool to postsecondary education, with smooth transitions in which students master at each grade what they will need to succeed in the next."

Copies of the report are available for \$8 from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, CN 5281, Princeton, N.J. 08543-5281, or free online at [the commission's Web site](#) (requires [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), available free).



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